

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BAGHDA 00223 171101Z

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C O N F I D E N T I A L BAGHDAD 0223

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, IZ

SUBJ: IRAQ SUGGESTS AGENDA ITEMS FOR COLUMBO NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCE

1. IN A STATEMENT RELEASED IN BAGHDAD ON FEB. 3, IRAQI FOREIGN MINISTER, SAADOUN HAMMADI, CALLED FOR THE INCLUSION OF FIVE TOPICS IN THE AGENDA OF THE 5TH SUMMIT CONFERENCE OF THE NON-ALIGNED STATES TO BE HELD IN COLOMBO ON AUG. 16. THESE WERE:

- A) ESTABLISHMENT OF A PERMANENT GENERAL SECRETARIAT, INCLUDING AN INFORMATION OFFICE, FOR THE NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT
- B) CONVOCATION OF A CONFERENCE OF INDIAN MVEAN STATES TO ACHIEVE THE GOAL OF CONVERTING THE INDIAN OCEAN INTO A ZONE OF PEACE AND SECURITY
- C) HIGHLIGHTING THE ARAB-ZIONIST CONFLICT AS A CONFLICT BETWEEN THE ARABS ON ONE HAND AND ZIONISM AND IMPERIALISM ON THE OTHER.
- D) FULL SUPPORT FOR WORLD LIBERATION MOVEMENTS TO ENABLE THEM TO INTENSIFY THEIR STRUGGLE FOR LIBERTY AND INDEPENDENCE
- E) HIGHLIGHTING ECONOMIC ASPECTS OF NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT, IN PARTICULAR NECESSITY OF STRENGTHENING ECONOMIC RELATIONS AMONG NON-ALIGNED COUNTRIES AND FORMATION OF ORGANIZATIONS OF RAW MATERIALS PRODUCERS SIMILAR TO OPEC TO REDRESS ATTEMPTS AT IMPERIALIST EXPLOITATION AND DOMINATION.

2. ON FEB. 12, IRAQI FOREIGN MINISTRY SUMMONED ALL AMBASSADORS OF NON-ALIGNED STATES IN BAGHDAD AND ANNOUNCED IRAQ'S WILLINGNESS TO HOST A FOREIGN MINISTERS'S CONFERENCE OF NON-ALIGNED STATES
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PAGE 02 BAGHDA 00223 171101Z

IN 1978. GOI REQUESTED SUPPORT FOR ITS PROPOSAL DURING

FORTHCOMING NON-ALIGNED SUMMIT CONFERENCE IN COLOMBO.

3. COMMENT: IRAQ HAS AMBITIONS FOR GREATER LEADERSHIP ROLE
AMONG NON-ALIGNED NATIONS AND WILL NO DOUBT GIVE ITS SUPPORT
TO ANY ISSUE THAT IT BELIEVES WILL ENHANCE ITS POPULARITY AMONG
OTHER NON-ALIGNEDS. GOI ALSO PERCEIVES A DIRECT INTEREST IN
REDUCING GREAT POWER MILITARY PRESENCE IN INDIAN OCEAN AND IN
IDENTIFYING OPEC WITH LDCS THROUGH ESTABLISHMENT OF OPEC AS
MODEL FOR OTHER LDC RAW MATERIALS EXPORTERS TO FOLLOW.
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